

PROCEEDINGS
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BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW NAME FOR *KAULFUSSIA* BLUME, A GENUS
OF MARATTIACEOUS FERNS.

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By permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

The generic name *Kaulfussia* given by Blume in 1828 to a Javan fern described earlier in the same volume as *Aspidium aesculifolium* is invalidated by *Kaulfussia* Dennstedt (1818) applied to a genus of Polygalaceae and by *Kaulfussia* Nees (1820) for a genus of Compositae. Subsequently the name *Macrostoma* was associated in manuscript, by Griffith, with a supposed second species (*assamica*) of the same genus; but *Macrostoma* appears never to have been formally published and is in any event untenable. So far as we know no other name has ever been proposed for this peculiar genus of marattiaceous ferns, and we have accordingly renamed it as below, in honor of Herr Carl Christensen, of Copenhagen, the first part of whose valuable *Index Filicum* now issuing we have already had occasion to notice.*

Christensenia nom. nov.

Kaulfussia Blume, Enum. Pl. Jav. 2 : 260. 1828. Not *Kaulfussia* Dennstedt, Schlüss. Hort. Ind. Malabar. 30. 1818. Not *Kaulfussia* Nees, Hor. Phys. Berol. 53. pl. 11. 1820.

Macrostoma Griffith, Asiat. Researches 19¹ : 108. 1836. Not *Macrostoma* Hedwig, Gen. Pl. 102. 1806, which is *Macrostema* Persoon, Synop. Pl. 1 : 185. 1805. Not *Macrostomium* Blume, Bijdr. Fl. Nederl. Ind. 335. f. 37. 1825.

* Science, II. 22 : 267-269. Sept. 1, 1905.

The type of *Kaulfussia* Blume and therefore of *Christensenia* is *Aspidium aesculifolium* with the following synonymy :

***Christensenia aesculifolia* (Blume).**

Aspidium aesculifolium Blume, Enum. Pl. Jav. 2 : 143. 1828.

Kaulfussia aesculifolia Blume, Enum. Pl. Jav. 2 : 260. 1828.

The distribution of true *C. aesculifolia* outside of Java, the type region, is more or less uncertain. De Vriese and Harting, in their *Monographie des Marattiacées* (1853), recognize four species of *Kaulfussia*, viz. *K. aesculifolia* Blume, l. c., from Java and Leyte; *K. assamica* Griffith, *Asiat. Researches* 19¹ : 108. pl. 19. 1836, from Assam; *K. Korthalsii* de Vriese, *Epim. Ind. Sem. Hort. Lugd. Bat.* 1851, from Sumatra and Luzon; and *K. Lobbianana* de Vriese, in de Vriese and Harting, *Mon. Maratt.* 14. 1853, from Java; of which the last two are figured. We have not undertaken to determine the status of the last three. Most writers have followed Hooker and Baker in merging them with *aesculifolia*; but it is by no means unlikely that careful study will substantiate their claim to recognition, incidentally offering an explanation for the wide range of variation which so-called *aesculifolia* has been supposed to have.